

BRYAN IS WAITING FOR FULL DETAILS OF BENTON AFFAIR

Secretary Orders Far-Reaching Investigation of Killing.

NO OPINION UNTIL
ALL FACTS KNOWN

**Determination of Proper Course
Towards Villa Will Be Left by
Great Britain Entirely With
State Department—Situation
Cause of Grave Discussion in Senate.**

Washington, February 21.—Secretary Bryan has ordered a far-reaching investigation of the killing of William S. Benton, the British subject, at Juarez. He announced to-day that most of the facts in the case have been gathered from all available sources, no opinion would be expressed by the State Department. All information received will be transmitted to the courts.

Explanations made by General Villa to Thomas D. Edwards and George C. Carothers, the American consular representative at Juarez, together with other court-martial records, are to be supplemented by further information. Instructions went forth to American Consul Letcher, at Chihuahua, to get additional details from Villa, and it was understood that inquiry through independent sources will be carried on at Juarez.

Mr. Carothers is consular agent at Torreon, temporarily assisting Mr. Edwards.

The losses received by the State Department up to late to-day, giving Villa's version of the affair, were that Benton was armed, had personally quarreled with Villa, had been disarmed, shot court-martial, and executed on the charge of attempting the life of Villa.

Officials Make No Comment.

Villa's explanation, as telegraphed by him to-day to the Constitutional agency here, was unofficially exhibited to State Department officials, and was read with interest, brought no comment, and was not particularly interesting in the reference to Benton as an "armed prowler," and as such, not entitled to the protection of the rules of war. "The armed prowler" described in "order 106" of the United States army is usually a guerrilla, they explained, and was caught within military lines with arms, either engaged in the wanton destruction of property or as part of an invading force. It generally was a "murderous assassin." If Benton had made a murderous assault with a deadly weapon, he might have been subjected to the death penalty, but on that point evidence is wanting, and army officers are reserving judgment.

From the foregoing and other instructions issued by the Foreign Office, the British Embassy here will make no further move pending the outcome of the investigation, which the State Department has undertaken. The British Ambassador at Washington, Mr. Spring-Rice, has emphasized the unofficial character of the representations he has made to the State Department, and has pointed out that it is not for the British government to demand that the British government claim any legal obligation on the part of the United States to look after the welfare of British subjects in Mexico. The action of the State Department, directed through the British Legation in Mexico, in sending consuls to extend to British in Mexico the same degree of protection as is given to British subjects in other countries, is regarded as an act of courtesy, for which the British government was duly grateful.

For this reason, it is said, there is no basis for the contention that a demand will be made on the United States government to obtain reparation for the killing of Benton, and determination of the responsibility to be pursued towards Villa consequently is to be left entirely to State Department officials.

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One result of the Benton incident has been to create a feeling of apprehension in diplomatic circles as to the safety of the foreign element in Mexico. So far, however, no one has been interested content in the belief that the undertaking by the American State Department to look after the welfare of their people in Mexico would be sufficient to guarantee them the protection by the rules of civilized war.

Closely following the news of the killing of Benton under conditions which European diplomats are inclined to consider highly reprehensible, there has come a report of the killing of Spanish subjects in Mexico. The Spanish government, through its embassy, here requested information from the state department and so far this has not been available. It is probable that there has been discussion among diplomats of recommending a general withdrawal of Europeans from the disturb-

The seriousness of the Mexican situation generally and particularly the execution of Benton, furnished the Senate a subject of grave discussion. Members of the Foreign Relations Committee, George Franklin Vilas and Charles McNamara, who were in close touch with affairs abroad, directed by the President and State Department. Official attention was called to the Benton case in a telegram to Senator Fall, of New Mexico, from R. C. McPherson, American minister in Mexico, who had just learned that the murdered Benton "like a dog" and that the American policy of "watchful waiting is a failure." Senator Fall also read to the Senate resolutions of protest adopted last night at a mass-meeting in El Paso, and urged the Senate to a more aggressive policy, and other Senators sided with him.

Senate Takes No Action.

The Senate took no action. Members of the Foreign Relations Committee urged that the executive and State Departments be not embarrassed in efforts to protect foreigners in the revolution-torn republic.

Despite efforts of senators to keep the issue before the Senate for a day, the Senate is concerned, and fears were expressed to-night that some Senators would be restrained no longer from discussing the situation in the Senate chamber. The Senate to avert this is one of the tasks confronting it.

GENERAL PANCHO VILLA.

DIVERGENT VIEWS SNEER AT RECORD BY WORD PAINTERS OF COURT-MARTIAL

Prosperity and Depression Pictured by Democrats and Republicans in House.	Benton's Friends Continue in Belief That He Was Deliberately Murdered.
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CHARGE AGAINST REDFIELD REPORT IS MADE PUBLIC

Conclusions in Report on Lum-ber Industry Directly Con-
trary to Evidence.

It Says Englishman Was Exe-
cuted for Attempted Armed
Violence Against Villa.

Washington, February 21.—Prosperity and depression to-day were pictured again in the House by Democratic and Republican word painters.

Representative Humphrey, Republican, of Washington, arraigned Democratic claims of beneficent effects of the new tariff law.

"Since the present Democratic tariff law took effect," he said, "the foreigners have captured our markets, and the balance of trade has been against us for the first time in the history of the nation since the old Wilson law went into effect."

Representative Pittenger, Democrat, of New York, replied that under the Republican tariff law there was a deficit regularly at one time of the year because of inadequate customs receipts, and added that by June 1, payments aggregating \$50,000,000 or \$59,000,000 for

Mr. Humphrey charged that Secretary of Commerce Redfield had prepared and submitted a report on the lumber industry in Washington, with conclusions directly contrary to evidence on

"That I may be understood clearly by the country," he said, "I want to make the direct statement that evidence submitted by special examiners on which the report is based is directly contrary to every statement in that report."

Messrs. Underwood and Fitzgerald presented the charge, and declared it inconceivable that it could be substantiated.

The industrial relations commission was under fire by Minority Leader Benton loyally."

There was no further mention of any activity on the part of the captain.

Witnesses against Benton were Major Manuel E. Banda and Adries Farías. I does not appear that Villa testified

Mr. Mann during the debate. He said the commission had been stirred by reports of many people out of employment, to investigate conditions from Boston to Kansas City, and suggested it should look into conditions in Buffalo and Chicago on the way.

Representative Madden, Illinois, called on Villalobos and asked him if Banda and Farías swore that Benton called on Villalobos on Tuesday afternoon "at an inopportune moment."

Witnesses were with Villalobos at the time. Benton, they said, made complaint of rebel depredations on his ranch, "Los Remedios," in the State of Chihuahua.

Republican, tried to find out what the commission had ever done, and suggested that the commissioners "drew salaries and looked wise." He called attention to the fact that when it came to investigating the Michigan and Colorado mining strikes, the

House appointed special subcommittees to make the investigation.

Representative Fitzgerald, in charge of the urgent deficiency appropriation bill, which was under debate, read testimony of Chairman Walsh, of the commission, before the Appropriations Committee.

"But if I had my way," he commented, "without stirring up a dozen hornets' nests, I would have the commission transferred to the Department of Labor, and let the gentlemen and gentlewomen on the commission go their various ways."

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1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.